

Remarks

In the present response, four claims (1, 12, 17, and 18) are amended; and three claims (5, 15, and 16) are canceled. Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 17-23 are presented for examination.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Pan for having an interview with patent attorney Philip S. Lyren on August 22, 2006. During the interview, an agreement was reached wherein independent claim 1 would be amended to include the recitations of allowed dependent claim 5; and independent claim 12 would be amended to include the recitations of allowed dependent claim 16 and intervening claim 15. The claims are amended in accordance with the interview.

Applicants respectfully state that all claims are now in condition for allowance. The remaining independent claim 22 was allowed in the Final Office Action dated 06/27/2006.

II. Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 11-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,101,577 (Tran) in view of USPN 5,371,877 (Drako). This rejection is moot in view of the amendments to place this application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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